

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 05720 021455Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 A-01 OC-06

CPR-03 SY-05 NSCE-00 /043 W

-----047908 021458Z /53

O 021427Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6541

INFO AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA IMMEDIATE

COMUSFORAZ IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS) PINT PEPR PO US

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S LAJES STOP ENROUTE JERUSALEM

REF: (A) STATE 194444; (B) STATE 193706; (C) STATE 193381

1. WE PLAN TO INFORM THE PRESIDENCY AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VIA DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF THE SECRETARY'S LAJES STOPS ON AUGUST 5 AND 9. WE WILL ASK THE MINISTRY TO INFORM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC FOR THE AZORES OF BOTH STOPS.

2. IN LIGHT OF THE FIVE-HOUR LAYOVER AUGUST 5, THE SECRETARY'S PARTY SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:
--THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS FOLLOWING THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOCIALIST/CENTER DEMOCRAT SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT REMAINS UNRESOLVED. THE CURRENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT IS PERFORMING ONLY LIMITED HOUSEKEEPING FUNCTIONS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS RESIGNED. VISITS BY SENIOR USG OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME WILL BE WIDELY REPORTED AND POSSIBLY SUBJECT TO MEDIA SPECULATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT CRISIS.
--PREVIOUS REFUELING STOPS (MOST RECENTLY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S) HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT REGIONAL AZOREAN AUTHORITIES ATTEMPT TO USE SUCH STOPS AND OTHERWISE
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PRO FORMA COURTESY CALLS AS CONVENIENT AMMUNITION IN THEIR FEUD WITH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. IN TIME OF CRISIS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE AZOREAN AUTHORITIES ARE SUPPORTERS OF THE OPPOSITION SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SUCH OTHERWISE ROUTINE ENCOUNTERS COULD BE FURTHER EXPLOITED.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, I RECOMMEND AGAINST INFORMING REGIONAL

AZOREAN AUTHORITIES OF THE AUGUST 5 STOP. ONCE INFORMED, WE
HAVE VIRTUALLY NO CONTROL OVER WHICH REGIONAL AUTHORITIES
MIGHT APPEAR AT PLANESIDE. I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY
LISBON AND AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA BE AUTHORIZED TO DISCOURAGE
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL AZOREAN AUTHORITIES FROM
CALLING ON THE SECRETARY, CITING ONGOING PREPARATIONS FOR
HIS MIDDLE EAST VISIT, THE TECHNICAL NATURE OF THE LAJES
STOP, AND THE EARLY HOUR BY WASHINGTON TIME.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON05720
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780316-0318
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808108/aaaadmlg.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d0c8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 194444, 78 STATE 193706, 78 STATE 193381
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1563212
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S LAJES STOP ENROUTE JERUSALEM
TAGS: OVIP, PINT, PEPR, PO, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d0c8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014